



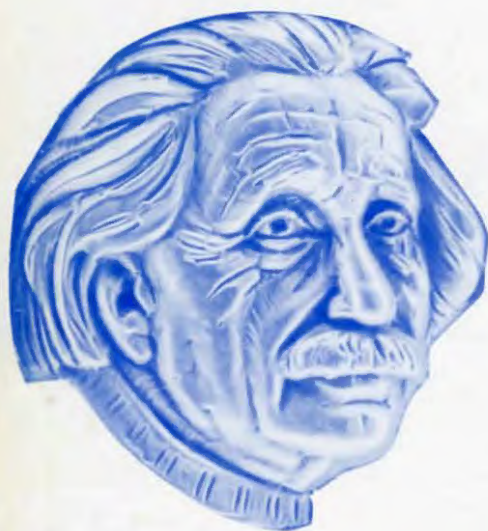
THE

שקל

SHEKEL

Volume XIII, No. 6

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1980



**Superscientist
Philosopher
Nobel-Laureate
Humanitarian
Zionist, and
humble man**

A MEDALLIC TRIBUTE

A Century of his birth (1879-1979)
25th Anniversary of his death (1955-1980)



Published by the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

The AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is a cultural and educational organization dedicated to the study and collection of Israel's coinage, past and present, and all aspects of Judaica Numismatica. It is a democratically organized, membership oriented group, chartered as a non-profit association under the laws of the State of New York.

As an educational organization, the primary responsibility is the development of programs, publications, meeting and other activities which will bring news, history, technical, social and related background to the study of numismatics. Membership is open to all men and women of goodwill and to clubs who share the common goals of the Association.

The Association is the publisher of THE SHEKEL, a six times a year journal and news magazine prepared for the enlightenment and education of the membership. It neither solicits or accepts advertising, paid or unpaid. Its views are the views and opinions of the writers and the pages and columns are open to all who submit material deemed by the editors to be of interest to the members.

The Association sponsors such major cultural/social/numismatic events as an annual Study Tour of Israel, national and regional conventions and such other activities and enterprises which will benefit the members. Dues are paid annually at \$10.00 per year; life memberships are offered to all at \$150.00 per year. Junior membership (under 18) \$6 per year. Your interest and participation will be welcomed by any of the affiliated clubs or as a general member of the Association.

THE AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. / An Educational Informational Non-Profit Organization: Published six times a year. Membership \$10.00 per year. Send all remittances, undelivered magazines, change of address and zip code with old address label to P.O. Box 25790, Tamarac, Florida 33320.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends:

Business is going on as usual at the A.I.N.A. office. We are in the midst of preparations for the Greater Miami Beach International Mid-Winter Coin Convention taking place in January. It promises to be an outstanding event and we look forward to seeing our friends again. This convention will offer two outstanding Numismatic experts, Harry Forman and Don Kagin. The panel will have as moderator, Stanley Yulish. We will also have the pleasure of seeing the famous Kagan-Maremba collection of Israel's Coins, Medals and Banknotes. We are expecting a large turnout for this special event. If you are in the area, don't miss it.

Our new I.N.S. of Cincinnati club is flourishing, thanks to the efforts and able leadership of Leonard Kirschner. We will attempt to expand to other cities next year.

The slide programs distributions have been assigned to Moe Weinschel and Julius Turoff in New York. Clubs should communicate with them for shipment of lectures. Speaking of clubs, a special offer has been made to clubs to try to get more A.I.N.A. memberships. All clubs should have received this offer and if not, please write us. The greater the A.I.N.A. membership, the more we can do for you.

Harry Flower has spent much time and effort in cataloging tokens and medals of A.I.N.A., our special events and clubs, and I publicly thank him for this. We are in the process of discussing ways to publish this work.

I will be calling on more of the membership to help me implement new ideas and I want to get more people involved in the activities of A.I.N.A. Please help us to realize our goals.

Now that the New Year is almost upon us, your 1981 dues are being accepted. The membership dues are the biggest bargain in Israel Numismatics. We also have another bargain which you should take advantage of and that is becoming a Life Member for only \$150.00—a one time payment.

It is also getting close to that time when we will again be holding elections. If you have any desire to serve on the Board, let me remind you that you must get a nomination petition submitted. These are available for you from the A.I.N.A. office.

In closing, we hope many of you will join us on our exciting "Bar Mitzvah" Study Tour to Israel, March 12th to 26th. Get your applications in right away—we don't want anyone to miss the wonderful opportunity this study tour offers.

SHALOM,

Morris Bram, President

Did you enjoy "the Shekel" share it with a friend or colleague. New members are always welcome. Application for A.I.N.A. membership is enclosed, or please write to:

A.I.N.A.
P.O.B. 25790
Tamarac, Fla 33320

The dues are still only \$10.00, which includes 6 issues of "The SHEKEL", A.I.N.A. & I.G.C.A.M. New Year Tokens, notices of A.I.N.A. conventions, annual sponsored tours to Israel, I.N.S. club activities & much more. Last but not least, you will receive notices on availability of all Israeli coins & medals at issue price.

1981 AINA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION NOTICE

The A.I.N.A. elections for the year 1981 will consist of the election of three National Directors, three Regional Directors and one Dealer.

The Regional Directors will consist of the following:

- One (1) covering Area 4—EAST
- One (1) covering Area 6—MIDWEST
- One (1) covering Area 7—WEST

Any paid-up member of A.I.N.A. is eligible to run for office.

If anybody is interested in running for the Office of Director and requires information as to the procedures, please write to the

Office Administrator of A.I.N.A.,

P.O. Box 25790,
Tamarac, Florida 33320.



We will then send the necessary information and petition forms. This is a very important function of A.I.N.A., and we would appreciate hearing from all those interested in participating.



In preparation for the Elections,
the following committee has been appointed:

Election Committee: Jack L. Burman
Jack Garfield
Roy Miller

The election procedure this year is as follows:

The ballots will be sent directly to the Office of Bergman & Schuchman, the American Israel Numismatic Association's certified accountants. The counting of the ballots will be done by our auditing firm who will certify to the audit, and they will be assisted in their count by the Election Committee.



Therefore, it is incumbent upon anyone interested in running for office to contact the A.I.N.A. office for information and petitions prior to February 1, 1981.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

(1879-1955), (1979-1980)

The years 1979 and 1980 mark two important dates as far as Albert Einstein is concerned. In 1979 the world marked the centenary of Albert Einstein's birth, and 1980 marks the 25th Anniversary of his death.

The entire world recognized this genius in various forms i.e. films, T.V. specials, books, special lectures, naming halls of science after him, sculptures and last but not least, the issuance of numerous coins, medals, tokens, paper money and other memorabilia, by various governments.

The Krause Publications 1981 Calendar dedicated the month of November to Einstein thusly:
Nuclear Physics Scientist:

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Albert Einstein sought to bring all the miracles of the universe, from the tiniest atom to the greatest galaxy, into a single pattern. His work on the farthest fron-

tiers of human knowledge made him an immortal of science. His compassion for the politically and economically oppressed endeared him to millions around the world.

Einstein's major work was accomplished in 1905. During that epoch-making year in the history of physical science, he published three papers, each of which became the basis of a new branch of physics. In one of the papers, he used the quantum theory to explain the photoelectric effect, for which he received the 1921 Nobel Prize in physics. The second paper established that mass and energy are exchangeable, thus laying the foundation for the atomic age. The third paper set forth the special theory of relativity which revolutionized scientific thought with new conceptions of space, time, mass, motion, and gravitation.

The Amos Press Publication printed a special souvenir folder "The Century of Genius" in November 1980, dedicating it to Thomas A. Edison and Albert Einstein. N.S.



Israel was the first country to print the portrait of Einstein on legal Tender, shown is a 5 I.L. Note

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN



Dear Readers:

Greetings of the Season! As we reach another year in the decade of the 80's, we wish you a year of peace, good health, and prosperity; a very happy New Year.

Thanks so much for your congratulatory telephone calls and letters on the last issue of "The Shekel." Your encouragement and support, makes an almost impossible task, seem so much easier.

This issue of "The Shekel" is dedicated to Professor Albert Einstein, the man, the myth, the genius. Rather than delve into scientific theory, we feature Albert Einstein as the man, his contributions to humanity and the many accolades and numismatic tributes he received.

My sincere thanks is extended to Morris Bram and Nahum Hacohen for their untiring assistance in procuring some of the material. Credit is also extended to Harry Flower for his compilation of the Table of Einsteiniana Numismatics, and to Moe Weinschel for the photography of

most of the medals. Last, but not least, Julius Turoff deserves an accolade for his untiring assistance (sometimes till past midnight) in all respects. Julie is always on call.

We also wish to thank all the new contributors, who answered our call, as well as the regular contributors. Again we invite you to submit material or to suggest topics, that interest you. Among the suggested topics for the forthcoming issues are: medicine, Jewish War Veterans, famous women, museums, Nobel laureates, scientists and statesmen. What do you like?

You will find a new section called "Letters to the Editor" including comments, queries, praise and criticism. Keep writing: if it fits, we shall print it.

Hope to see you all at the Greater Miami Beach Midwinter Coin Convention on January 15-18, 1981, at the Deauville Hotel.

Shalom,
Nathan Sobel, Editor

AMERICAN
ISRAEL
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION



BAR MITZVAH STUDY TOUR

March 12-26, 1981

For details see back cover

For details
see
back cover

JOIN A.I.N.A.
and receive Free

1. A.I.N.A. New Years token
2. I.G.C.A.M. New Years token
3. The SHEKEL, and much, more

ALBERT EINSTEIN— THE HUMAN DIMENSION

by Nathan Sobel, N.L.G.

A tribute to the centenary of his birth (1879-1979), and a memoriam to the 25th anniversary of his death (1955-1980). Albert Einstein—A legend for all times.

If Albert Einstein were to write this article for *The Shekel*, he would begin "My life is a simple thing, that would interest no one. It is a known fact that I was born, and that is all that is necessary." This is an actual quote by the man himself. Little did he know that 100 years after his birth, his theories, concepts, thoughts and above all his supergenius would alter the development of civilization for eternity.

This giant of a man who could have very well claimed superiority over others, who could have been pompous, arrogant or the like, considered himself very humble, and although Einstein developed several theories involving mathematics, physics, astronomy, etc. that have literally swept away past concepts of our galaxy and the heavens, lived a simple down to earth life.

It wouldn't be fair, and wouldn't do much justice to attempt to elaborate or enumerate any of Einstein's theories, formulae and achievements, since volumes upon volumes of scientific research and data on Einsteinian time, space and the universe have been written. (They even named a newly discovered chemical element after him—Einsteinium). Rather, here is another view of the complex man whose simple attire of baggy pants, unruly long hair and mode of life, made it easy for young and old, rich and poor, educated and uneducated, to identify in some way with him. Mr. Einstein was helping a young student having trouble in math, his advice was—"don't worry about your difficulties in mathematics, I can assure you that mine are still greater . . ."

At a gathering someone once asked the scientist a question, to which he replied: "I don't know. Why fill my memory with facts that I can find in an encyclopedia." Mrs. Einstein had her own wit about the man she married. When she visited the Mt. Wilson Observatory in Cali-



The Albert Einstein 2" dia. medal, sculpted by Prof. Robert Russin for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame series of the Judah Magnes Museum, Berkeley, Calif. Medals were struck in bronze and silver by Medallion Art Co.

fornia, she admired the giant telescope, gadgets and attachments and asked what they were for. They told her that one of the chief uses was to find out the shape of the universe. "Oh," replied Mrs. Einstein, "my husband does that on the back of an envelope!"

Professor Einstein was not a religious man, but he believed in God. He did not think that the universe, life and all, did happen just like that. "God does not play dice," he once remarked. "God has a master plan of the universe." Just as Dr. Einstein believed in God, he was apolitical, and even though his life was drastically changed due to the political upheavals in Europe during World War II, he remained an ardent pacifist. "If my theory of relativity is proven successful, Germany will claim me as a German, and France will declare that I am a citizen of the world. If my theory should prove to

be untrue, then France will say that I am a German, and Germany will say that I am a Jew . . ."

In 1922 Dr. Albert Einstein was granted the most coveted Nobel Prize for his evolution of the photoelectric effect theory. Even though his several theories of relativity had long been published, and recognized by the scientific world (though not yet proven), he was never granted the Nobel Prize for this foremost theory of theories ($E=mc^2$), which unlocked the secrets to the nuclear (atomic) age and subsequent space explorations. Apparently, the state of the world during and after World War II was such that they could not care less . . .

To date all the science books have been rewritten to incorporate Professor Einstein's theories.

Einstein was very proud of his heritage. As a matter of fact, at the tender age of 5 he chastised his



Einstein's vast circle of friends ranged from presidents and prime ministers to university undergraduates. Here he is shown with Ben-Gurion.

freethinking father for straying from the path of Jewish orthodoxy. Though these feelings waned later, it surfaced again in a much stronger way after World War II. Einstein expressed it in so many ways, and in so many occasions; "The pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, an almost fanatical love of justice, and the desire for personal independence—these are the features of Jewish tradition which make me thank my stars that I belong to it."

World leaders and statesmen felt it an honor, and probably a sense of duty to come down to Princeton University to pay homage, visit and just chat with the legendary scientist.

Albert (I feel as if I knew him personally) rarely left his study at Princeton. He liked on occasion to sail on lake Placid or Saranac Lake upstate New York, and contemplate. Or he would take his violin and fiddle leisurely. He loved music very much, he seemed to relax while playing, or he ventured away into

the far yonders of space with the sound of music.

When the first President of the newly established State of Israel, Professor Chaim Weizmann passed away in 1952, Professor Einstein was offered the Presidency by the late Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion. However, he politely declined, probably due to his advanced age stating that he is very greatly honored by the offer, but that he was not qualified enough and that he was too old for that. . . .

He identified with Israel and its people, as he did with Palestine long before Israel. In his book "The World as I see it" he stated "Palestine is not primarily a place of refuge for the Jews of Eastern Europe, but the embodiment of the re-awakening corporate spirit of the whole Jewish Nation."

He did not worry about tomorrow—"I never worry about the future. It comes soon enough." So it came, in 1955, when Doctor Albert Einstein left his and our Universe . . .



Watermark of the Israeli 5 I.L. Einstein Bill.



The obverse of two award medals commemorating Einstein issued by different organizations.

NEW IS100 NOTE MAY ADD MORE CURRENCY CONFUSION

By SHLOMO MAOZ
Post Economic Reporter

The new IS100 note, bearing a portrait of Ze'ev Jabotinsky brownish-orange in colour and only six millimetres longer than the IS50 note, will further confuse Israelis as well as tourists, banking sources in Jerusalem believe. The Bank of Israel will begin distribution of the new notes at the end of this year.

Despite the numerous tourist complaints and problems resulting from the pound-to-shekel changeover, the new note will also be printed only in Hebrew characters. Thus, a tourist who sees the numerals "100" and reads only Latin characters will not know whether the note he is holding is worth 100 pounds (blue with a picture of Theodor Herzl) or the new IS100 note, which is worth 10 times as much.

Further difficulties will arise from the new notes' colour, which closely resembles the present IS50 bill. The very slight difference in size will not help to distinguish between the two

denominations in a poorly-lit place.

Bank of Israel Governor Arnon Gafny, who has expressed interest in extending his term of office past its legal expiration date one month before elections, presented one of the new bills to Prime Minister Menachem Begin, at the Ze'ev Jabotinsky centenary celebration at the Jerusalem Theatre recently.

The note, first planned as a 1,000 pound bill, as originally designed with the portrait of Baron Edmond de Rothschild, "father of the Yishuv (pre-State Jewish community in this country)." Begin, Gafny and former finance minister Simcha Ehrlich decided to replace the baron with Jabotinsky.

Rothschild's portrait is now scheduled to appear on an IS500 note to be issued in the future.

Reprinted with permission from the Jerusalem Post, Nov. 1, 1980.



PEACE TREATY COINS OF EGYPT

معاهدة السلام المصرية

(MOAHADA AL-SALAM AL-MASRIA)

by Edward Baruch

When Anwar Sadat went to Jerusalem in November 1977, the whole world was shaken by this most unexpected historical happening. Throughout all of Israel's young State's history, every Government head's dream was to be able to physically sit down with its Arab counterpart to discuss peace. Four major wars plus the War of Attrition which left countless dead and wounded on both sides, had not yet made a dent in the Arab philosophy of trying to liquidate the Jewish State.

Sadat's Jerusalem trip then took everybody by surprise. It was a bold and imaginative step, perhaps a stroke of genius on his part. It all led to the Camp David accord, which is still being implemented today. As a result of the efforts toward peace initiated by Sadat and Begin, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to both leaders.

Then in 1980, and on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Camp David Peace Treaty accord, Israel issued one gold and two silver coins commemorating this event, as well as a gold, a bronze, and two silver medals.

At the same time, very quietly and without fanfare, Egypt also released its Peace Treaty commemorative coinage. Three of the coins were struck in .875 fine gold—a One Pound, 24mm, weighing 8 grams, a Five Pound, 33mm, weighing 26 grams, and a Ten Pound, 40mm, weighing 40 grams. Also a One Pound .720 fine silver, 35mm, weighing 15 grams. They were struck by the Cairo Mint by the express authority of the Government of Egypt. Special sets of all four coins were presented to President Sadat, President Carter, Prime Minister Begin and other world leaders. The obverse shows a likeness of Anwar Sadat with a hand holding a quill pen resembling an olive branch, the thumb looking like a symbolic dove, and under it the inscription "March 26th 1979—In Commemoration of the Signing of the Peace Treaty." The reverse reads "Arab Republic of Egypt" on top, "One Pound" in the middle, the year "1980" to the left, and "1400" to the right, the latter being the date corresponding to the Moslem year. All writing, including numerals, is done exclusively in Arabic.



Reverse

Arab Republic of Egypt
One Pound

1980

1400



Obverse

March 26th, 1979
Commemorating the Signing of the
Peace Treaty

Anwar el-Sadat was born on December 25, 1918 in a small village on the banks of the Nile. His country was then under British domination. When Sadat was seven years old, his family moved to Cairo. The change in environment from a small town to a big city was a revelation: for every day, while he walked to school and back, he passed the Al-Qubba Palace, one of the many palaces inhabited by the then King Fuad. He never dreamt that one day he would enter through that mansion, which was surrounded by an imposing wall, and sit down on the same chair that King Fuad—and later on King Farouk, occupied.

tion was dispelled by Sadat himself, who wrote in his own autobiography that at that time he only envisioned the British defeat in WW II by the Germans as the only alternative for expelling them from Egypt.

Sadat would undoubtedly have become the first President of his country, but because of his long imprisonment—two and one-half years—Gamal Abdel Nasser would eventually become the head of the Revolutionary Council and subsequently Egypt's strongman. Britain relinquished its role in Egypt in October 1955, after seventy-five years of occupation. But it was not until June 1956 that they finally left the country.

Before becoming President of Egypt, Sadat held the post of Minister of State, while at the same time he founded el-Gumhuria—The Republic—a newspaper where he played an active role as Chief Editor.

The issuance of Egypt's Peace Treaty coins, therefore, in addition to its enormous historical implications, carry with it a presage of a more stable future for the region.

Let us hope that it is now only a matter of time, when the other countries of the Middle East will also extend a friendly hand to Israel, and thus see Isaiah's prophecy come true:

Continued on page 12



Reverse



Obverse

Israel's 1980 commemorative coins (silver and gold) marking the Peace Treaty with Egypt.

SHERATON HOTEL FIGHTS INFLATION

The Tel-Aviv Sheraton Hotel joins the world of international currencies this month with the introduction of "Shekelosophy"—its new plan which puts money in its guests' pockets.

All Restaurant and Lounge guests will receive a Sheraton Shekel check equal to 10 percent of their bill, which is redeemable at any one of the facilities within six months. People

may use the checks themselves or give them to friends or relatives.

Harold Richman, General Manager of the Tel-Aviv Sheraton, is a true "Shekelosopher". I have always believed that a hotel is judged by its price value relationship, and one reason the Tel-Aviv Sheraton is the number one hotel in Israel today, is because we give our guests the best value for money."



"SHEKELOSOPHY" comes to the Tel Aviv-Sheraton. The Tel Aviv-Sheraton puts money in its guests' pockets with the introduction this month of "Shekelosophy". Pictured above is the uniquely designed Sheraton Shekel check.

Obverse



Reverse

Egypt — Continued from page 11

"For out of Zion shall go forth the law
And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem:
... And they shall beat their swords into
plowshares
And their spears into pruning hooks
Nation shall not lift up sword against
nation
NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR
ANY MORE"

לֹא יֵשֵׁא גּוֹי אֶל גּוֹי חֶרֶב, וְלֹא
תִהְיֶה עוֹד מִלְחָמָה... יִשְׁעִיבוּ

Israel's 1979 Peace Medals
in Gold, Silver & Bronze

ALBERT EINSTEIN— YET ANOTHER VIEW.

by Saul B. Needleman, Ph.D.

"Dear Miss Ley:

I hear from Elsa that you are dissatisfied because you did not see your uncle Einstein. Let me therefore tell you what I look like: pale face, long hair, and a tiny beginning of a paunch. In addition an awkward gait, and a cigar in the mouth—if he happens to have a cigar—and a pen in his pocket or his hand. But crooked legs and warts he does not have; and as he is quite handsome—also no hair on his hands such as is often found on ugly men. So it is indeed a pity that you did not see me.

With warm greetings from
Your Uncle Einstein"

Thus did Albert Einstein describe himself to his 8 year old niece following his visit to Stuttgart in September 1920. We get a very human feeling—a gentleness that belies his strength of thought—a sense of humor to temper the rigidity of his scientific theories—with perhaps just a touch of humility.

This latter trait was all the more evident in a letter to Heinrich Zangger, a friend, after Einstein's postula-

tion of the generalized theory of relativity and prediction of gravitational bending of light rays: "With fame I become more and more stupid, which, of course, is a very common phenomenon. There is far too great a disproportion between what one is and what others think one is, or at least what they say they think one is." Or again in another letter—"In the past it never occurred to me that every casual remark of mine would be snatched up and recorded. Otherwise I would have crept further into my shell." To a college student claiming indecision in her ability to pursue a scientific career, Einstein wrote "Science is a wonderful thing if one does not have to earn one's living at it. One should earn one's living by work of which one is sure one is capable. Only when we do not have to be accountable to anybody can we find joy in scientific endeavors."

Even early in his academic career, Einstein already challenged an easy acceptance of God. Mathematics had taught him to reason and a reading of the Bible left many questions and



1979 Israel State Medal was released on the occasion of the centenary; a 59 mm. bronze, and a 45 mm. silver, depict a grouping of formulae.

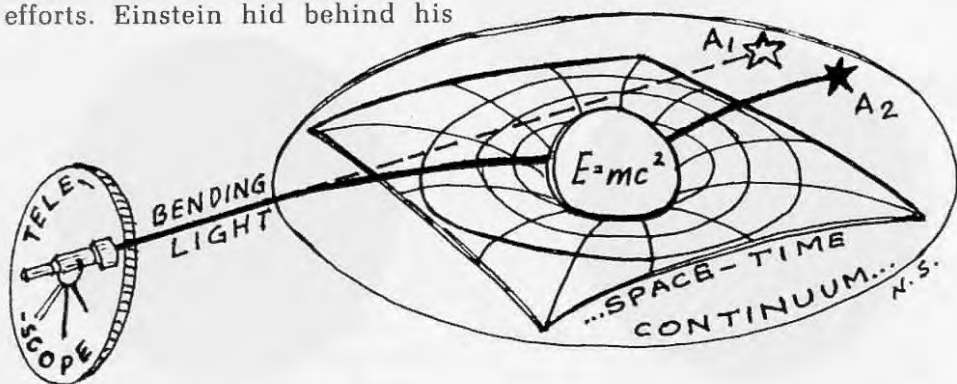
doubts which Einstein could not deduce from fact, nor which he could accept on faith. Yet he did reason that without God, the world might be expected to careen like a runaway horse—but it didn't. "... I do not believe in a personal God and I have never denied this but have expressed it clearly. If something is in me which can be called religious then it is the unbounded admiration for the structure of the world as far as our science can reveal it." At times, he did identify with Judaism. "The value of Judaism lies exclusively in its spiritual and ethical content and in the corresponding qualities of individual Jews. For this reason, from olden times till now, study has rightly been the sacred endeavour of the capable ones among us. That is not to say, however, that we should earn our livelihood by intellectual work, as is, unfortunately, too often the case among us. In these dire times (October, 1933) we must do our utmost to adjust to practical necessity without giving up love of spiritual and intellectual, and cultivation of our studies."

Einstein expressed pacifist views when Germany drew Europe into a war in 1914. He only passively involved himself in liberal causes trying to find a way to bring the war to an end but admired many of his friends who went to prison for their efforts. Einstein hid behind his

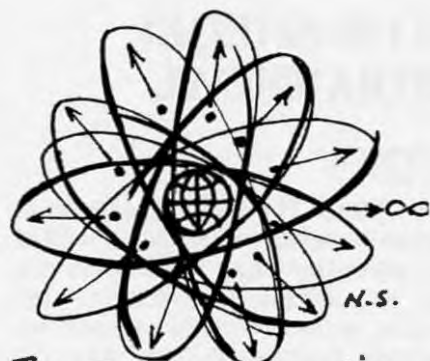
"need" to pursue his studies on the yet unannounced Theory of Relativity. This ultimately led to separation from his wife and two sons and then divorce. So overwhelming was his devotion to his research that he sacrificed all else—family, appearance, health—not for the fame which quickly came his way, but for the intellectually scientific stimulation his discoveries gave him.

In 1919, Einstein expressed strong support for the League of Nations but the political unrest which ravaged Germany after the Treaty of Versailles was labeled as Bolshevik or Jewish plots to destroy German Nationalism and, in the wave of anti-Semitism which followed, Einstein only recently touted for his work in Relativity, now became the focus of ridicule—from German Nationalists on the one hand and from the Jews who looked to assimilation as the answer to their own problems on the other. Judaism had played little role in his life until this time, but now for the first time he declared his Judaism—and joined The Zionist movement. But through all of this—his own innate pride in The German university prevented him from leaving.

If not a passionate Zionist, Einstein was at least a passive supporter of the cause "... I'm off to America



Time, Space & Einstein...



The Ever - Expanding Universe...

... to help (raise money) in the founding of the Jewish University in Jerusalem. I feel an intense need to do something for this cause." And at the dedication of the site for the Hebrew University, "I believe that in time this endeavor will grow into something splendid, and, Jewish Saint that I am, my heart rejoices." In 1955 Einstein wrote to Kurt Blumenfeld who had introduced him to Zionism.

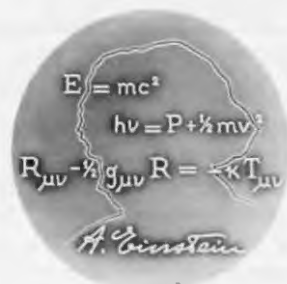
"I thank you, even at this late hour, for having helped me become aware of my Jewish soul."



For the dedication in New York of a memorial to the heroes of the battle of the Warsaw Ghetto and to the Six Million Martyred Jews of Europe, he wrote " ... The fate of the surviving victims of German persecution bears witness to the degree of which the moral conscience of mankind has weakened. Today's meeting shows that not all men are prepared to accept this Horror in silence. This

meeting is inspired by the will to secure the dignity and the natural rights of individual man. It stands for the recognition of the fact that a tolerable existence for man—and even his bare existence—is tied to our adherence to the eternal moral demands. For this stand I wish to express my appreciation and thanks as a human being and as a Jew."

And in the same year, to an Idaho farmer who named his new-born son Albert "Nothing truly valuable arises from ambition or from a mere sense of duty; it stems rather from love and devotion towards men and towards objective things."



A complex individual—with a complex mind—who tried to find simplicity in the complex laws of nature and the complex ways of man.



TRANSITION TO THE SHEQEL STRICTLY PSYCHOLOGICAL

By SAMSON KRUPNICK

"LIRA—of Blessed Memory—died at the tender age of 32 after a long and difficult illness." So read a mock death notice, complete with black frame and large black letters, posted on Jerusalem's many bulletin boards.

LIRA (1948-1980)
OF BLESSED MEMORY
DIED AT THE TENDER AGE OF
32
AFTER A LONG AND
DIFFICULT ILLNESS

Death notices thus posted, are a familiar sight to Israelis, but this was the first to produce mirth, smiles, snickers, even guffaws. Artist David Rakai went one better. He prepared a headstone on a mock grave at Artists' House in Jerusalem, with the appropriate inscription, "Here lies the Lira, of Blessed Memory."

THE MUCH PUBLICIZED puns, cartoons and caricatures gave "Sheqel Day," Sept. 30, a festive jovial air. This approach of levity towards a cumbersome and significant transition was quite typical of the average Israeli's attitude towards most economic measures here. They are generally accepted with a shrug of the shoulders, a cynical wise-crack, an outright laugh, or in the case of the more warm-blooded Sephardim, an energetic wave of the arm accompanied by a torrent of well chosen diatribes at any and all Government agencies. This historic occasion, on the whole, was also taken in stride.

The conversion, as far as the public was concerned, involved a dropping of the zero on all amounts involving the lira, i.e. the 500 lira note became 50 sheqel (2 to 10 are called, the plural "sheqalim", and above that "sheqel".) 200 lira became 20

sheqel, etc. The major operation affected checks, not currency. Coins are gradually being replaced. A new ten agorot coin less than ½ inch across, replaces the lira coin, 4 times its size (and worth less than two cents).

THE NEW SHEQEL currency looks precisely the same as the old lira currency. The lavender-colored 10 lirot with the windmill and Montefiore picture now bears the number 1 instead of 10; the green-colored 50 lirot with the Old City gate and Weizmann picture now carries the number 5 instead of 50; the blue-colored 100 lirot with the Knesset entrance and the Herzl picture now bears the number 10 instead of 100; the yellow-colored 500 lirot with the Negev scene and the Ben Gurion picture now carries a number 50 instead of 500. If one but sticks to colors he can't go wrong unless he's color blind in which case he'd better concentrate on the number.

The problem was and is, the transition in checks. The public was giv-

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THE LIGHTER SIDE OF ALBERT EINSTEIN

by Linda Chernick

When you think of Albert Einstein you think of $E=mc^2$; of physics; you think of him as a scientist. Few people are aware of the other side of Einstein, or to "coin" a phrase—there are two sides to every coin...

But Einstein even surpasses two sides... his genius led the development of other genius'... He had changed the course of science. Above all Einstein was gifted with a sense of humor and a sense for human understanding. Little did I know that researching scientific data would lead me to his own definition of relativity.

Relativity—When a man sits for an hour with a pretty girl on his knee, it seems like a minute. But let him sit

on a hot stove for a minute and its longer than an hour. That's relativity.

His definition of science/religion—Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind.

On nationalism—an infantile disease. It is the measles of mankind.

Education—is that which remains when one has forgotten everything he learned in school.

God—is clever, but he is not dishonest.

To think of Einstein in just terms of scientific data I feel would do Einstein the man, the genius, the legend— injustice.

Continued from page 16
en sufficient notice, but people invariably wait until the last moment. Hence, on Sept. 29 there were long lines in every bank to receive check books with the new insignia on the checks—the Hebrew, "shin" . A grace period of 10 days was allowed for the deposit of lira checks. All currency and coins remain legal tender.

WHAT COMPLICATED the transition somewhat was the closing of the banks for three days, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 to permit them to change records, adjust computers, convert accounts, train personnel, etc. etc. and Simchat Torah on Oct. 2, creating a minor hardship for those who needed cash or for enterprises with large cash intakes. To ameliorate this inconvenience, over 100 automatic "bank tellers" machines throughout the large centers in Israel punched out up to 500 sheqel in any 24-hour

period to holders of proper plastic credit cards. Hundreds of thousands used these tellers. For the merchants with cash, most banks made arrangements to accommodate them even during the first two closing days "through the back door." So, Sheqel Day passed in a fairly orderly manner.

But what was the real objective of the Bank of Israel in ordering such a conversion from the Latin-Roman-British lira to the ancient Hebraic sheqel, other than well founded sentiment? Apparently, until inflation is finally stunted or totally conquered, the conversion is purely psychological. No more dealing in thousands and hundreds of thousands of lirot for the average Israeli. Tens, hundreds and thousands give one a better feeling of appreciation of the money in hand and its more prudent use. Israelis can surely benefit from such a basic lesson.

RECOVERY NOTED IN COIN MARKET

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN
Jerusalem Post Finance Reporter

TEL AVIV.—The market for Israel commemorative coins and medals seems to be coming out of its long period of slumber, during which prices remained static and trading was at a minimum.

Only several months ago the Ben-Gurion and Bonds coins, judged by most collectors as poor issues due to their high mintage figures, were traded at prices that just about reflected their gold bullion content. Their prices fluctuated in almost direct relation to the international price of gold. It was rumored that relatively substantial quantities of them were melted down for their gold content. No accurate evaluation of this process was possible since it is against the law to destroy coins issued by the Bank of Israel.

Now, however, the prices of these two issues have climbed to the point where they fetch a handsome premium over their bullion content value.

Sales personnel at the Tel Aviv store of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation told *The Jerusalem Post* that interest is high in the new Ze'ev Jabotinsky commemorative issue. According to a dealer there is a thriving market for the rights to the limited-issue gold Jabotinsky coin.

While most observers consider the issue price of IS3,260 to be high, it appears that the issue has broad appeal. This is due to its subject matter as well as to the fact that it is the first commemorative coin to be denominated in sheqels.

The Shema Yisrael medallions in gold, available in two diameters, have found a ready market.

The following are indicated prices for commemorative gold coins. The dollar value is the equivalent of sheqel prices based on current exchange rates.

Gold Coin	Price in sheqels	Price in dollars
Herzl	4,300	\$ 770
Weizmann	7,600	1,350
Bank of Israel	20,000	3,500
Victory	6,150	1,100
Jerusalem	4,000	715
Peace	3,400	605
Let My People Go	3,200	570
25th Anniversary	3,000	535
Ben-Gurion	3,600	645
Bonds	2,700	485
30th Anniversary	2,000	350
31st Anniversary	3,200	570

*Reprinted with permission
from the Jerusalem Post Oct. 4, 1980*



The special coin honouring the Dagon grain silo company of Haifa.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Medals, Coins, Tokens and Paper Money

1. M	Society of Medalists	U.S.	Medallic Art	1971	Bronze	72	Hal Reed
2. M	Judaic Heritage	U.S.	Franklin Mint	1973	Bronze	38	O. Harris
3. M	Judaic Heritage	U.S.	Franklin Mint	1973	Silver	38	O. Harris
4. M	French Mint	France	French Mint	1955	Bronze	68	G. Revol
5. M	French Mint	France	French Mint	1955	Silver	68	G. Revol
6. M	Huguenin Freres	Switzerland	Huguenin Frer	1955	Bronze	60	J. Ramseier
7. M	Huguenin Freres	Switzerland	Huguenin Frer	1955	Silver	60	J. Ramseier
8. M	J-A Hall of Fame	U.S.	Medallic Art	1971	Bronze	46	R. Russin
9. M	J-A Hall of Fame	U.S.	Medallic Art	1971	Nickel	46	R. Russin
10. M	J-A Hall of Fame	U.S.	Medallic Art	1971	Silver	46	R. Russin
11. M	National Com Society	U.S. (Err)	Franklin Mint	1968	Silver	39	J. Boulton
12. M	National Com Society	U.S. (Cor)	Franklin Mint	1968	Silver	39	J. Boulton
13. M	Israel State Medal	Israel	Kretschmer	1979	Bronze	59	N. Karp
14. M	Israel State Medal	Israel	Kretschmer	1979	Silver	45	N. Karp
15. M	Jean de Pauw	Holland	Cast: de Pauw	1955	Bronze	100	J. de Pauw
16. M	UNESCO	France	French Mint	1979	Bronze	59	M. Leognany
17. M	UNESCO	France	French Mint	1979	Silver	41	M. Leognany
18. M	UNESCO	France	French Mint	1979	Gold	23	M. Leognany
19. M	S.S. Johnson	Italy	S.S. Johnson	1955	Bronze	64	U. Rimondini
20. M	S.S. Johnson	Italy	S.S. Johnson	1955	Silver	60	U. Rimondini
21. M	Franklin Mint	U.S.	Franklin Mint	1970	Bronze	39	C. Rufo
22. M	Franklin Mint	U.S.	Franklin Mint	1979	Silver	39	C. Rufo
23. M	German State Mint	Germany	Karlsruhe Mt	1955	Silver	30	
24. M	German State Mint	Germany	Karlsruhe Mt	1955	Gold	13	
25. M	German State Mint	Germany	Bavarian Mint	1955	Silver	40	W. Leonard
26. M	German State Mint	Germany	Bavarian Mint	1955	Gold	20	W. Leonard
27. M	Longines Symphonette	U.S.	American Mint	1971	Silver	40	J. DiLorenzo
28. M	H. Otremba	Germany		1978	Silver	40	
29. T	Shell Oil Co.	U.S.	Franklin Mint	1968	Bronze	20	D. Cornell
30. T	Shell Oil Co.	U.S.	Franklin Mint	1968	Alum.	25	D. Cornell
31. T	Shell Oil Co.	U.S.	Franklin Mint	1968	Alum.	25	D. Cornell
32. C	E Germany 5 Mark	Germany	Berlin Mint	1979	Cu-Ni.	29	
33. C	E Germany 5 M Proof	Germany	Berlin Mint	1979	Cu-Ni.	29	
34. C	Switzerland Mint	Switzerland	Bern Mint	1979	Cu-Ni.	31	J. Zeller
35. C	Switzerland Mint Pr.	Switzerland	Bern Mint	1979	Cu-Ni.	31	J. Zeller
36. C	Switzerland Mint	Switzerland	Bern Mint	1979	Cu-Ni.	31	K. Wirth
37. C	Switzerland Mint Pr.	Switzerland	Bern Mint	1979	Cu-Ni.	31	K. Worth
38. M	Allen Sloane	U.S.	Cast: A. Sloan	1979	Bronze	93	A. Sloane
39. M	A. Gravarte	Portugal	A. Gravarte	1979	Bronze	92	R. de Abreu
40. M	A. Gravarte	Portugal	A. Gravarte	1980	Bronze	78	H. Mendes
41. M	A. Gravarte	Portugal	A. Gravarte	1980	Bronze	80	J. de Moura
42. M		U.S.		1966	Bronze	40	G. Colley
43. M	American Coin Club	U.S.		1979	Brass	39	
44. P	Israel (5£ note)	Holland	Enschede	1968	Paper		M. Bessi

M = Medals
C = Coins

T = Tokens
P = Paper Money

Compiled by Harry Flower
edited by Nat Sobel

THE JABOTINSKY CENTENNIAL MEDAL

AWARDED BY PRIME MINISTER M. BEGIN
TO 100 AMERICANS OF ALL FAITHS FOR DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL
AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE



Frieda S. Lewis

President, Hadassah

The Women's Zionist Organization of
America



Otto Preminger

Film Producer, Director

World famous producer, director of countless
outstanding and award-winning films.



Frank R. Lautenberg

Board of Trustees, National United Jewish
Appeal; Commissioner, Port Authority of New
York



The Coveted Award

MAYOR KOCH RECEIVES ISRAEL'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

HE SAYS HE WILL "NEVER BE SILENT"
WHEN IT COMES TO ISRAEL



From left to right: The Consul General of Israel in New York, Mr. Paul Kedar, Mayor Edward I. Koch, and the Chairman of the Board, Israel Government Coins & Medals Corp., Mr. David Shoham.

Mayor Edward Koch received one of Israel's most prestigious awards this past week when he accepted a set of Israel State Medals, (1980), in a special ceremony honoring the mayor for his "friendship to and support of Israel."

In accepting the award from David Shoham, chairman of the board of Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp., Mayor Koch declared that he will "never be silent" when it comes to Israel's security needs."

In his talk in the spacious Board of Estimate Room of City Hall, the mayor said that he supports Israel as an

American who sees Israel as part of the national interest of the U. S. and secondly, it is "morally" correct to support Israel.

The mayor received the "Shema Yisrael" medals. The award has been presented only to a few distinguished persons throughout the world, including the Chief Rabbis of Israel, Shlomo Goren and Ovadiah Yosef; and Mrs. Ophira Navon, wife of the President of Israel.

Addressing the gathering of about 500 ardent numismatists and honored guests, was Consul General of Israel Paul Kedar.

N.S.

The Non-Conformist EINSTEIN

by Edward Baruch



Albert Einstein was born on March 14, 1879, in the city of Ulm, Wurttemberg, province in Germany. It was in Munich, though, that Albert Einstein's greatest pastime was to watch the military parades with its strident music bands and drums. On the other hand, he never joined his schoolmates in playing soldier games; neither was he fond of athletics, like running or jumping. So, at one of the parades, when somebody tried to cheer him up by mentioning that soon he would be old enough to march like those great soldiers, his reply was typical: "Old enough?—But I was just thinking, sir, that I should not like to be a soldier and become a machine."

Albert Einstein, the man that was to develop the theory of relativity and thus become the greatest genius of his time for millions of people, certainly did not show the capacity for brilliancy during his early years.

The future genius was not a good pupil: his marks were mediocre and he never reached the top of his class. There was a time when even his family thought that he was retarded. He did not talk until the age of three. When he was ten he joined the Luit-

pold Gymnasium in Munich, where his grades were no better than at primary school. He hated the educational system with a passion, to the point that for many years he harbored a great feeling of resentment towards his teachers; he once wrote that schoolmasters behaved like sergeants, and professors like lieutenants.

Einstein also hated the military, whom he considered basically brutal, of a stereotyped behaviour, abusive of authority towards their "inferiors", and being obsequious towards "superiors", while their obedience to the Establishment was blindly automatic.

From popular science books, Einstein felt the urging for knowledge that thrust him with a passion into the mysteries of the universe. His insatiable mind, until the very time of his death, never left him alone: it was his only companion in solitude, and he seldom felt a need for human companionship. He was also given violin lessons, which he thoroughly loved, for he saw in it a great compatibility with math. However, his ability in this field did not go beyond the amateur.



Switzerland issued 2 commemorative coins in 1979 honoring Albert Einstein.

Since Einstein's theories completely upset previously espoused ideas, he usually found himself clashing with the early conservation of university routine, and what it was then called "common sense".

His pronouncements against nazi Germany and his concern that the Axis might be victorious in a war made him suggest to the United States that the development of a nuclear bomb was necessary. Although a pacifist at heart, he was one of the many pioneers that worked towards that end. And because of his pacifist nature, he was never happy with that endeavour. Years after the war he stated that "Had I known that the nazis would not succeed in making the bomb before the Allies, I would have abstained from any participation." It was because of Einstein's fame that his colleagues chose him to write to President Roosevelt to try to convince Congress the necessity of enacting a bill that would make it possible the granting of huge outlays of money necessary for what became secretly known as the "Manhattan Project". It was, however, a heart-breaking experience for Einstein, when, after Germany's defeat and capitulation, he had to implore that the bomb not be used against the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In 1952, Chaim Weizmann, first President of the State of Israel, died.

At that time Einstein was offered the honor of becoming that country's second president. He turned it down. His letter to that effect read as follows:—

"I am deeply moved by the offer from our State of Israel, and at once saddened and ashamed that I cannot accept it. All my life I have dealt with objective matters, hence I lack both the natural aptitude and the experience to deal properly with people and to exercise official functions. For these reasons alone I should be unsuited to fulfill the duties of that high office, even if advancing age was not making increasing inroads on my strength. I am the more distressed over these circumstances because my relationship with the Jewish people has become my strongest human bond, ever since I became fully aware of our precarious situation among the nations of the world."

Albert Einstein died on April 18, 1955. And in strict compliance with his wishes, his ashed were scattered in an undisclosed place. His place in the history of mankind as a giant amongst giants will remain to the end of time, for it was the product of his genius that brought us a new dimension that led to nuclear power and space technology that is unmatched in the annals of time.



This Swiss 5 Franc coin in honor of Einstein was minted in a unique manner.

COINS OF THE BIBLE

David Hendin



Half shekel: Temple tribute

(First of 12 parts)

They shall give... half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary... an half shekel shall be the offering of the Lord. (Exodus 30:13)

Silver shekels and half shekels minted in the Phoenician coastal city of Tyre were of such high-quality silver and uniform weight that they alone were preferred for the annual offering.

One would think these coins were offensive to the Jews and the early Christians because they carry the image of the Greek god Melqarth. Surely this was considered a "graven image" and thus prohibited.

Yet, it is stated in early Jewish writings that the stigma of using money bearing a "graven image" could be removed if the coins were thrown down and not passed from hand to hand. Thus, it is probable that the annual half-shekel tribute offering was thrown into a collection basket or box.

Because the coins of Tyre

were the only ones accepted, a group of money changers operated in the outer court of the Temple. They functioned just as foreign-currency exchanges do today, charging a fee of 8 percent to convert foreign currency into the coins of Tyre.

During the middle of the first century A.D., these money changers apparently became very competitive, and perhaps unruly, thus causing the episode about which we read in Matthew 21:12:

"And Jesus went into the temple of God and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money changers... And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer but ye have made it a den of thieves."

(NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.)



SILVER HALF SHEKEL of Tyre, minted 19 A.D. Obverse: Head of Melqarth. Reverse: Eagle.

ISRAEL ISSUES FIRST HANUKKA SILVER COIN IN SHEQEL DENOMINATION

by Nathan Sobel

Israel issues annually a coin to commemorate Hanukka, the Festival of Lights. The coin features a Hanukka Lamp designed and used by a Jewish community somewhere in the world. This year, it depicts one from Corfu, off the coast of Greece. There, the entire Jewish community perished in the Holocaust.

This new coin is the first in the "Sheqel" denomination. In fact, it is identical in weight and silver content to the sheqel minted during the Jewish Revolt against the Romans 1,914 years ago (in year 66 C.E.). That coin was struck in Jerusalem in defiance of the Romans since only the Emperor in Rome had the authority to issue silver coinage.

The new Hanukka Coin is offered only to subscribers of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation who were registered prior to October 15, 1980. It is available in BU and Proof. The limit per subscriber is two BU's and/or one Proof. Order forms were mailed to all eligible subscribers. Those who have not received an order form should contact the I.G.C.A.M. office for a duplicate form.

Description of the Coin

Obverse: The face value: 1 sheqel; the word "Israel" in Hebrew, Arabic and Latin characters and the State Emblem. The date 1980 and the Hebrew letters for the year 5741.

Reverse: A Hanukka Lamp from Corfu within a hexagonal (sixfold) depression. The words in Hebrew: "Hanukkiya from Corfu", "19th Century".

Edges: Proof coins, milled; BU coins, smooth and the issue date: 1980 and 5741 in Hebrew letters.

Details of the Coins:

Face value: 1 Sheqel; Metal: Silver .850; Diameter: 30mm.*

Weight: 14.4g;* Fine Silver Content: 12.24g.

Proof coin marked with the Hebrew letter 'mem', (מ).

BU coin marked with "Star of David" mintmark.

Designed by G. Shamir and minted at the Royal Canadian Mint, Ottawa.

Legal tender issued by the Bank of Israel.

*The metal content of .850 silver and weight of 14.4 gm are identical to the original One Sheqel coin that was minted till year 66 C.E. The only change is in the diameter. The ancient Sheqel was 20mm dia., while this new coin is 30mm.



Obverse



Reverse

MAIMONIDES (RAMBAM, רמב"ם) SCHOLAR AND PHYSICIAN

TORA AND FLORA
by Rabinowitz

MAIMONIDES, undoubtedly the most outstanding talmudic scholar since the close of the Talmud, was also a distinguished physician. After the death of his brother David, who was drowned in the Indian Ocean and whose death brought in its train the loss of the family fortune, he was obliged to earn a living and become a doctor.

He attained fame and was appointed personal physician to the Egyptian ruler Al Fadil, and gained an international reputation.

In a famous letter which he wrote to his translator Judah ibn Tibbon, he gives a dramatic description of his heavy duties: "I am obliged to visit the vizier every day, early in the morning, and when he, or any of his children, or the members of his harem, are indisposed, I dare not leave Cairo but must stay during most of the day. I do not return until the afternoon and I am almost dying from hunger. I find my antechamber filled with people, Jews and non-Jews, nobles and common people, judges and bailiffs, friends and foes, a mixed multitude. I dismount, entreat them to bear with me while I take some slight refreshment, my only meal in 24 hours. Patients come and go until nightfall, sometimes to 2 a.m. and I have to prescribe for them while lying down from sheer fatigue. When at last I am free, I am so exhausted I can scarcely speak."

What has this to do with Tora and Flora?

In the Tora there are enumerated the Seven Species of agricultural products of Israel, which the Talmud calls "the fruits for which the Land of Israel is praised." They are the

two grains, barley and wheat, and five fruits, the fig, the vine, the pomegranate, the olive and "devash," which is accepted in this context as the date palm.

In his "Hilchot De'ot" of his classic codification of the traditional 613 biblical commandments, the Mishneh Tora, Maimonides devotes a chapter to the nutritional value of various foods, among which, of course, agricultural products figure largely. To the contemporary reader it is an astonishing chapter, most of his evaluations running counter to all modern accepted views as to the nutritional value of different foods.

To give but one passage (which however, he partly modifies later on): "One should abstain from eating fruit, and certainly not overindulge in them; even dried fruits, but, particularly fresh fruit, and of course unripe fruit."

It should be pointed out that in this chapter it is wholly Maimonides, the distinguished physician,

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Maimonides, by Judaic Heritage Society

TWO ISRAELI ARTISTS WIN FIRST PRIZES IN COIN DESIGN CONTEST

The Bank of Israel recently advertised the results of the competition to design a silver commemorative coin that will be issued to mark Yom Ha-Atzma'ut (Independence day), 5741 (or A.D. 1981).

The announcement appeared in the Tel Aviv daily newspaper Yediot Ahronot on Sept. 26, according to Yosef Sa'ar, Elat, Israel numismatist and correspondent for World Coin News.

The coin's subject is described as "achievements of the state in the field of the Hebrew book and typography."

First prize was awarded to Efini Aharon of Bat-Yam, Israel, for the subject side of the coin. Another first prize, for the denominational side of the commemorative coin, went to Dov Lif of Yafo Ha-Atika, Israel.

Continued from page 26

who is speaking, and not the brilliant codifier of existing talmudic law, a fact which is proved by one simple thing. Without exception all the standard editions of Maimonides' Code take pains to indicate the talmudic source of his rulings; in the nutritional part of this chapter, no such reference has been found.

But Maimonides concludes this chapter in a rare burst of self-confidence and asserts "I guarantee that whosoever conducts himself according to these rules which I have enumerated above, will never be sick during his whole life until old age sets in and he dies a natural death. He will not need to have recourse to a physician, and his body will remain whole, unless he was born with a congenital defect."

A similar article was printed in the JERUSALEM POST

(Yafo is the Jewish name for Jaffa).

A second prize was won by Oswald Adler of Tel Aviv, while David Ben HaDor of Tel Aviv garnered third prize in the contest.

Sa'ar revealed that the Bank of Israel coin will be based upon the winning designs of Aharon and Lif, after necessary modifications by staff engravers at the Jerusalem Mint.

Sa'ar also pointed out that the correct spelling of the name of Israel's new currency unit is SHEQEL instead of SHEKEL, according to the transliteration preferred by the Bank of Israel. The correct Hebrew plural is SHQALIM, though the Bank itself uses SHEQELS in English.

However, observers in New York City doubt the 'Q' substitution for the traditional 'K' in Shekel will catch on in English. Major newspapers such as the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Chicago Tribune continue to use the spelling SHEKEL. This will also be used for now by the periodicals and catalogs of Krause Publications Inc., a spokesman pointed out, unless the term becomes generic quickly.

Yosef Sa'ar, now a permanent Israel resident, is the former Joseph Mark Kotler of Chicago, well known in the world transportation token field.

Reprinted with permission of the WORLD COIN NEWS of October 21, 1980

"Only When We Respect Ourselves . . . Before we can effectively combat anti-Semitism, we must first of all educate ourselves out of it, and out of the slave-mentality which it betokens. Only when we respect ourselves, can we win the respect of others; or rather, the respect of others will then come of itself.

Albert Einstein

Syngraphics

is coming soon.

All articles including photos will be appreciated.

Asked by his hostess at a social gathering to explain his Theory of Relativity:

'Madam, I was once walking in the country on a hot day with a blind friend and remarked that I would like a drink of milk!'

'I understand drink; said my friend, but what is milk?'

'A white liquid,' I replied.

'I know liquid, but what is white?'

'The same color as a swan's feathers.'

'I know feathers, but what is a swan?'

'A bird with a crooked neck.'

'I know neck, but what is crooked?'

I lost my patience. I seized his arm and straightened it. Then I bent it at the elbow and said, 'that is crooked.'

"Ah", said my blind companion, 'now I know what you mean by milk!'

Albert Einstein
"The world as I see it"



CHANUKAH

The Chanukah Festival commemorates the victory in 164 B.C.E. of Judas Maccabaeus and his army over the Greco-Syrians, who attempted to annihilate the Jewish religion—the first record of religious persecution in history. The occasion marks the victory of the Maccabees after the defilement of the temple of Jerusalem by the king of Syria. Among the debris the Maccabees found one cruse of oil sufficient to light the temple for only one day, yet lights were kindled from it for eight days. Today in homes and synagogues Jewish families gather around the candelabra, the CHANUKAH MENORAH, to light a candle each night of the eight-day festival. The eight candles represent:

FAITH
FREEDOM
COURAGE
LOVE
CHARITY
INTEGRITY
KNOWLEDGE
PEACE

Blessings for the Chanukah lights. The occasion marks the victory of the Jews over the heathens and the rededication of the holy temple.

INSpirations: I.N.S.N.J. AND I.N.S.C.J. OFFICERS INSTALLED



L. to R.: Sol Riveles, Howard Fink, Morris Bram, Laura Roseblum, Carl Roseblum, Sid Moskowitz, Dr. Harold Grubin, Claire Gottlieb, Milton Gottlieb.

Sunday evening, September 21st, was the date for a gala installation banquet for the officers of I.N.S.N.J. and I.N.S.C.J. at the newly redecorated Martinsville Inn in Martinsville, New Jersey. Morris Bram, President of A.I.N.A., flew up specifically to attend this function and to act as the installing officer. Claire Gottlieb and Jack Chinitz were installed as Presidents of I.N.S.N.J. and I.N.S.C.J. respectively. The meal that was provided by the Martinsville Inn was superb; Milton and Claire Gottlieb really outdid themselves as host and hostess for this affair.

Morris spoke briefly on this year's Bar Mitzvah trip to Israel. He outlined the highlights; a cruise on the Mediterranean, a visit with the Israeli Navy, numismatic gifts and more, much more. The price this year is \$1,795 per person. Two meals daily are included in the price.

Morris then conducted a question and answer period. Morris asked the questions, and we supplied the answers. Each correct answer won a prize. An example question was: A) What foreign monarch appeared on what American coin and in what year? B) What American woman appeared on an Israeli coin and in what year? Do you give up? Answers: A) Queen Isabella on the 1893 commemorative quarter. B) Henrietta Szold in 1960.

At this point, Jack Chinitz thanked Morris for the five shares contributed to Shaare Zedek in honor of I.N.S.C.J. This was done to thank us for our suggestion of sending the club enough contribution envelopes to mail out to our entire membership, so that anyone who wished to make a donation to Shaare Zedek could do so with a minimum of effort. Anyone contributing \$5 or more would receive a specially made over-strike for each \$5 contributed.

Milt Gottlieb announced that reservations are being accepted for a weekend in April at the Fallsburgh Hotel. The cost will be approximately \$100 per person.

We wound up the evening by presenting Morris with a bottle of his favorite cough syrup and then a door prize drawing. Surprise of surprises everyone won a prize.

The food was great, the company was terrific and we hope to see everyone at next year's banquet.



L. to R.: Kurt Lery, Ed Adelman, David Paszament, Jack Chinitz, Morris Bram.

DR. JANUSZ KORCZAK OF WARSAW IMMORTALIZED ON MEDAL

(Translated from Yiddish)

The legend of the 36 righteous men who are at all times responsible for the fate of the world—came to life again recently with the striking of a medal honoring Dr. Janusz Korczak, a Jewish writer and humanitarian who perished in the Warsaw Ghetto.

The medal has been struck by the Ghetto Fighters Museum in Israel, an institution dedicated to keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive in the mind of Jews and non-Jews alike. Dr. Korczak, spent his entire life in the service of orphan children. He organized Europe's most famous orphanage, The House of Orphans, in 1911 and served that institution until its seizure by the Germans in 1942.

Dr. Korczak was a firm believer in the right of orphan children to live in dignity. His approach to these children was revolutionary and his reputation among the forlorn was legendary. In addition to his role as the director of The House of Orphans, Dr. Korczak gained an international

reputation as a writer of children's stories. His collections of stories have been translated into numerous languages and have enchanted children the world over.

When The House of Children was forced to close its doors in the early days of 1942, Dr. Korczak refused to abandon his charges. Instead he accompanied them to their new quarters in the Warsaw Ghetto and he remained with them until they were transported to the death camps.

Indeed it is said that passersby who had gathered in the ghetto streets, could not understand the strange sight that met their eyes: a procession of happy singing children dressed in their sabbath clothing led by an old, but proud Jew, carrying in his arms a sick child. The sound of their singing voices echoed as they boarded the train. This was the one and only time that Janusz Korczak had deceived his charges. He had told them that the train would take them to sunshine and green fields. . . .

N.S.



-Medal struck in remembrance of a brave educator who perished in death camp.

A MEDAL FOR DANNY

A Review by DAVID SHULMAN

Jewish Minters & Medalists by Daniel M. Friedenberg. The Jewish Publication Society of America, Phila. 1977. 131 p. Cloth. \$12.50

If you were to pay for this book, which this reviewer highly recommends, with 1,250 pennies, how many of them were designed by Victor D. Brenner, the Jewish mint engraver and medalist? The chances are that all of them were. Since 1909, the portrait of Lincoln on the penny has not been changed. That and many other interesting facts about coins and medals produced by talented Jewish artists are embodied in this fine book by Daniel M. Friedenberg.

He is Curator of Coins and Medals at the Jewish Museum in New York and a Fellow of the American Numismatic Society. He is also the author of two other books in the same field. Also, I have been told he is a member of the Wall Street Synagogue. With such an excellent track record, doesn't Danny deserve a medal himself? Who else is better qualified to produce such a beautiful book on the subject? Both illustrations and text blend perfectly throughout this well-organized history of Jewish produced coins and medals from ancient times to the present.

After reading and enjoying this book, one might wish to actually handle and fondle the masterpieces in metal, both coins and medals. In fact, many collectors are obsessed with owning various examples of such products of numismatic art. That the Jews were heavy contributors to making all of this possible is amply attested to and documented thoroughly by Mr. Friedenberg. Next

to owning some of them, visiting his Jewish Museum of the American Numismatic Society and other such institutions that house the rarer productions might be in order. And, a good preparation for such a visit with a Judaic background in mind, would be an acquaintance with this book; it could be one key to unlock such store-houses of treasures.

It makes fascinating reading. It summons up past Jewish history, particularly the monetary or financial aspect. It reminds us of the artistry of Jews, not only with designs, but also with even graven images. It tells us who were these artists—Jews, related Jews, or converted Jews. It explains how they rose to such positions of prominence in Gentile countries. It even sheds light on how much esteem they commanded from the governments and rulers under whom, or which they performed their wizardry in metallic excellence.

If you are interested in the subject, the book is a must. If you are not interested, once you buy the book, it is this reviewer's prediction that you will become converted. The author displays with modesty what must be the result of years of research. His enthusiasm for his subject is also contagious. The only fault I can find with the book is that I cannot match him for the great knowledge he commands so that it might have helped had he added a few more lines of text to explain some of the more obscure personalities honored in medallic art. I know that some of them are famous to him, but he could have saved me the trouble of looking them up in biographical reference works.

Continued on page 33

PACKING WEIGHTS IN SALT

by Jeremy U. Newman, P.E.



When Abraham lost his beloved Sarah, he was far from his ancestral home, with no burial place. His purchase of the Cave of Machpelah in Hebron included the trees, which meant, according to Hittite law, that this purchase was a permanent one, not merely a long-term rental. "And Abraham weighed out the silver for Ephron (the Hittite) . . . four hundred silver shekels at the current merchants' rate."

The word *shekel*, as used here, means weight. And similarly, the word *shakol* means to weigh out, and the word *mishkal* means weight or weighing. A far cry from the coin called the *shekel* of later times.

It would seem that with the advent of the minted coin, weighing out precious metals might have passed into limbo, but obviously it did not, nor will it ever. Just go to a coin shop and see the popularity of the one ounce wafer of silver or gold, to say nothing of the larger bars, and you will realize that weighing of precious metals is still part of today's market, as it was in Abraham's time.

According to Jewish tradition, there are *taryag mitzvot*, 613 Commandments (and Prohibitions) that shape Jewish life. Maimonides discussed them in his Book of the *Mitzvot*. An obscure scholar, probably one Aaron ha-Levi of Barcelona, built on Maimonides work and penned the *Sefer ha-Chinuch*¹ (Book of Instruction) and discussed, in detail, every Commandment. Of par-

ticular interest to us as traders in gold and silver are Commandment #223, "To have correct scales, weights (*mishkalim*) and measuring devices," and #604, "Not keeping in our possession faulty scales and weights (*mishkalim*), even if we do not transact business with them."

Commandment #223 is explained very clearly by the *Sefer ha-Chinuch*, who notes that it is a Commandment "to have honest scales, weights and measuring devices, to adjust them, and to carefully protect them, for Scripture says, 'You shall have honest scales, honest stone weights, an honest *ephah*, and an honest *hin*.' (Lev. 19:36.) (The *ephah* is a measurement of dry volumes, the *hin* of liquid volumes—editor). As the *Sifre*² comments, 'Honest scales' means that you must carefully adjust your scales for accuracy. The matter in scales is a serious one, since it is possible to engage in numerous fraudulent practices with them, as one well knows. 'Honest stone weights' means to carefully calibrate the weights, for one can also engage in numerous fraudulent practices with them, such as the one the sages have mentioned, packing weights in salt. (According to Rabbi Chavel,³ Maimonides says salt can corrode certain weights, making them lighter. Rashi feels salt can saturate porous weights, making them heavier—editor). . . . Our sages tell us (*Baba Metzia* 61b) that "He Who distinguished between the sperm that became a first born (in Egypt) and one which did not, will certainly be able to ferret out the man who packs his weights in salt in order to defraud his unsuspecting fellow man. . . ."

Mr. Newman is a chief Civil Engineer with the Department of Transportation of the City of New York. He is also a Board Trustee of the N.Y.C. Civic Center Synagogue, and the Young Israel of Wave Crest in Far Rockaway. He has occasionally written articles on Scientific Jewish subjects.

"The source of this Commandment," observes the *Chinuch*, "(i.e., to be honest, avoid theft and fraud) are known to all intelligent people."

He further explains: "Some of the laws that result from this Commandment are: Our sages tell us not to make weights of tin, lead or other metals, because they rust away and become lighter, but rather of stone, glass or similar materials.⁴ . . . (In addition) it is incumbent upon the courts to appoint inspectors to make the rounds and check all scales and weights. "And they should be empowered to fine or flog anyone who uses defective weights. . . ."

In conclusion, "this Commandment is incumbent upon both men and women. A transgressor has violated a positive Commandment, i.e. the prohibition of fraud, forceful appropriation, and theft of any property worth a penny or more. . . ."

It is interesting that commandment #223 is reinforced by a negative commandment, Prohibition #604 in the *Sefer ha-Chinuch*. In #604 "we are forbidden to keep in our possession, in our homes, faulty scales and weights, even if we do not transact any business with them, and do not use them for buying and selling. For they tempt us. Scripture

says, 'Thou shalt not have in thy bag diverse stones, a great and a small' (Deut. 25:13), and also, 'Thou shalt not have in thy house diverse measuring devices (a great and a small)' (Deut. 25:14). Thus our revered sages say in the Talmudic Tractate *Baba Batra* (29b) that it is forbidden for one to keep in his home an underweight or overweight measure, even if it be a cheap pottery chamber pot.⁵ . . ."

In conclusion, the *Chinuch* says of this Prohibition that it is "incumbent at all times on both men and women. A transgressor violates this Prohibition by mere possession of short weights and defective scales in his home, even if he never uses them. However, he receives no lashes (in this case), because he has done nothing. And if he does transgress and weighs (*shakal*) with them, he must make restitution. Of course, by making restitution, flogging becomes unnecessary."

The next time you engage in a transaction that involves weighing precious metals or coins keep these laws in mind. Packing weights in salt may not be a deceit used today, but there are certainly others. Make sure you obtain the "current merchants' rate."

Continued from page 31

However, I should not really blame him for what may be my own fault; I may be too lazy or lack the time for further research.

One final word of tribute—the publisher has done a fine job over all, binding, layout, illustration, and paper stock. Even the dust jacket is well done. If the author has any intention to publish another work on the subject—to which information we are not privy—he will be hard put to match, let alone surpass, his current triumph.

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1. *Sefer ha-Chinuch*, edited by Rabbi Chaim Dov Chavel of Edgemere, N.Y., Published by Mossad Harav Kook, Jerusalem, 1968.
 2. An early Rabbinic Biblical commentary.
 3. Explanatory footnote by Rabbi Chavel in his edition of the *Chinuch*.
 4. Inert materials, rust free and unaffected by salt.
 5. Rabbi Chavel explains that some unwitting stranger may inadvertently use it for measuring.

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The country's banks re-opened quietly on Friday morning, with no signs of the pressure expected by the banking community. The banks were closed from September 30 through October 2 to allow bank workers to convert their records and systems from the pound to the sheqel.

The Bank of Israel reported no customer complaints or misunderstandings as the banking system went over to the new currency.

Many bank branches, which opened their doors a half hour early, beefed up their staffs with additional

tellers and clerks to handle questions and deal with the extra business caused by the three day closure. Lines moved quickly in most branches.

The Bank of Israel in fact is short of sheqel notes and has been supplying the banks with lira notes.

The lira whose value was pegged at a tenth of a sheqel remains legal tender, until further notice.

In Hebrew, the sums of two to 10 shekels are expressed as shegalim, whereas larger sums are expressed as sheqel. N.S.

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lances is on call round the clock to aid the ill and the injured.

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This year's program is more exciting than ever. We will have surprises and gifts celebrating the tour's Bar Mitzvah. We will include a special boat ride at Haifa Port on the Mediterranean Sea and a visit to the Israel Navy. Social functions and banquets will be held in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and our gala banquet in Jerusalem, including a reception by the Mayor of Jerusalem, The Honorable Teddy Kollek.

A silver 35mm Judea Capta medal overstruck with the A.I.N.A. emblem will be given to all participants, plus a special gift from the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

Looking forward to welcoming you personally, when you join us next March.

Cordially,

Morris Bram
Morris Bram
President

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